Maintenance Grant for National Highways

1056. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of maintenance grant Government releasing per k.m. for national highways;

(b) whether the present grant is adequate; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) is negative whether Government propose to enhance it ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIOAL CHARGE OF THE MI IISTRY OF COMMUNICATICN (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) The requirements of funds for maintenance of National Highways are assessed on the basis of terrain, climate, road condition, traffic intensity and rates per kilometer in different States; but the amounts are released based on the available resources on pro-rata basis. The amount released during the last five years is indicated below:

Year	Amount released (Rs. in Crores)
1985-86	90·00
1986-87	92·88
1987-88	98·62
1988-89	141·56
1989-90	143·[illegible]

(b) Because of the constraint of resources, the present allocation is short of the assessed requirement.

(c) Enhancement of maintenance grant will depend upon availability of resources.

Abolition of death penalty

1057. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for abolition of death penatly in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The death penalty is only an alternative to life imprisonment for a few heinous offences and is awarded in the rarest of rare cases.

C-DOT project

1058. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 'C-DOT' project was assigned with the task of building advance telecommunication technology and telephone exchange equipment indigenously ;

(b) if so, to what extent it has achieved its object so far ; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to wind up 'C-DOT' and invite international manufacturers to supply its technologies and equipments?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) : (a) C-DOT has been

assigned to undertake initially design, development and engineering of digital electronic switching system technology and subsequently telematics technology using state-of the art concept appropriate to Indian conditions.

(b) C-DOT has developed a family of digital switching system suitable for Indian conditions. These cover :

(i) 128P RAX
(ii) 128P/256P PABX
(iii) 512P RAX/MAX II
(iv) 16000 MAX

(i), (ii) and (iii) have been developed while (iv) is under field trial.

(c) No. Sir.

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways in Maharashtra

1059. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra have submitted a proposal to the Central Government to convert the State Highways into National Highways ;

(b) if so, which State Highways in Marathwada region of Maharashtra State are proposed to be converted into National Highways ; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) During the Seventh Five Year Plan Maharashtra Government submitted a proposal for declaration of 11 State Highways having a length of 4679 Kms as National Highways.

(b) Due to constraint of resources it has not been possible to declare any State Highway as National Highway in Marathwada region.

(c) Inclusion of roads including those in Marathwada region in the National Highway grid would depend on the availability of resources in the 8th Five Year Plan.

Talks with Bangladesh on 'Chakmas Issue'

1060. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during his recent visit to Bangladesh the issue of 'Chakmas' unauthorised entry into India was raised with that Government ; and

(b) if so, what is the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJARAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government wants the Chakma refugees to return voluntarily to their homes at the earliest and has urged Bangladesh to create the conditions to facilitate this. During my recent visit to Bangladesh, Bangladesh agreed to send a delegation from the Chittagong Hill Tracts to visit the camps in Tripura with a veiw to persuading the refugees to return.

Complaints regarding Irregularities by Offfcials of MCD

1061. SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of complaints received by the Prime